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Letter dated 16 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement in response to the announcement by the Maoists in Nepal of the end of the unilateral ceasefire, issued on 9 January 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gerhard **Pfanzelter**
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 16 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement in response to the announcement by the Maoists in Nepal of the end of the unilateral ceasefire issued on 9 January 2006 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union deeply regrets the announcement by the Maoists in Nepal (Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)) of the end of their ceasefire. The Union has consistently called (most recently in the statement of the Presidency of 31 December 2005) for the Maoists to put a definitive end to violence and other human rights abuses, as well as the disruption of development work, and had been encouraged by the ceasefire and the agreement reached with the seven party political alliance. The decision to end the ceasefire is a retrograde step.

The European Union notes that the ceasefire declared by the Maoists had been welcomed by the people of Nepal and is deeply disappointed by the failure of the Government of Nepal to respond to this strong desire for peace by announcing a truce.

The critical need remains for all parties to take immediate steps for complete cessation of hostilities and to work towards an inclusive national dialogue in Nepal with a view to resolving the underlying causes of the conflict peacefully.

The European Union reminds all parties to the conflict of the importance of human rights and the need to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

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* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.